



**REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER
2005 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**

Prepared by Prof. K. Pillay: President

1. Introduction

The past year has been immensely frantic which brought about new challenges for all of us at the Executive Committee of CRIMSA. I am indeed grateful to all the Executive members of the Council for their dedication and commitment in sustaining CRIMSA as our only vehicle in South Africa to keep the debate on criminological and victimological issues very much alive in this country. I wish to express my appreciation to all of them for all their support, in what has proved to be a busy and demanding year for.

This report will present a reflection of all CRIMSA's significant activities, successes, victories and limitations during the past year.

The issues and debates around crime, the perceptions about crime as well as the adjudication of criminal justice especially in South Africa will continue to be discussed vigorously in academic circles as well as in the general public domain.

The recent burglary at the Deputy President's Morningside home in Johannesburg, the unsolved murders of two Soweto sister's who were abducted and killed on their way to church, the continuous attacks and rape of women and children, the impunity which criminals attack 'soft targets' such as supermarkets, filling stations and shopping malls, bears testimony of the fear of crime that grips us as a nation.

Whilst government may be complimented on its efforts to introduce new pieces of legislation and allocate more resources to the criminal justice cluster to bring perpetrators to book, we will continue to live with criminal activity in our country. It is my view that for as long as we continue to have a polarised and

unevenly distributed economic system we will still be faced with the challenge of fighting crime.

In a recent article entitled "The death of Intellectualism" it was pointed out Universities are churning out graduates with practical skills, while pure academia quietly fades.

In the same article, Howard Barrell former editor of the Mail & Guardian says, "Fostering a spirit of inquiry and challenge in young people is important in developing a society intellectually and materially".

Anthea Garman, a senior lecturer at Rhodes University and a PhD student, points out that the country has been grappling with unprecedented change since the late 1980s and the early 1990s. The pace of transformation and the pressure on the government to deliver leaves less time for public debate. There are certain topics that are tricky to talk about. "You have to be careful who you are speaking about and who you are speaking for," Garman says.

This anxiety about speaking out in public is fuelled by the fear of negative reaction and backlash.

Despite being the pre-eminent vehicle for public debate, the media also stifle the intellectual atmosphere, says Garman.

As scholars of criminology and victimology we need to play a more active role as advisors or commentators on criminological issues, the type of research that we undertake should be relevant and be problem-solving based. We need to inculcate a culture of intellectual renewal and enlightened debate amongst the younger cadre of students who are going to be the country's future leaders, analysts and advisors.

2. ESTABLISHING A PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CRIMINOLOGY

I would now like to briefly share with you CRIMSA's process and progress with regard to the establishment of a Professional Board for Criminology. Since the mid-1990's one of the key objectives of the Society was to obtain registration for criminologists with one of the existing regulatory professional councils.

Various attempts were made to pursue this objective and some of the Councils that were approached retorted that the criminology degree lacked a career focus.

Since then there have been significant developments towards the registration and introduction of a new professional qualification.

Based on this, the Exco mandated a task team made up of Proff. Linda Davis, Anna van der Hoven and Beaty Naudé to explore the viability of pursuing this challenge

The recent change of the Bachelor of Arts Criminology Qualification developed by the SGB (Standard Generating Body) for Criminology and Criminal Justice, to a career focussed Bachelor of Criminology (a four year degree), set the stage for exploring this matter further.

CRIMSA, in consultation with various experts working in the field of Criminology, post graduate students, other professional boards and councils as well as institutions such as the Restorative Justice Centre to obtain their support for the establishment of a professional board for Criminologists, has prepared an application for professional registration with the South African Council for Social Service Professions(SACSSP).

This indeed represents a significant move forward towards the establishment of such a professional Board. However I need to caution that this process is painstakingly slow (up to two years) and the accompanying motivation adds up to several reams of paper.

If the application is successful, the following will come into effect:

- Compulsory annual registration for all criminologists/victimologists
- Regulation of training
- Adherence to the rules and regulations of the regulatory board and the SACSSP
- Disciplinary inquiries in cases of misconduct
- A selection process
- Some form of internship

3. Membership

As I reported previously, the current active membership appears to be a cause for concern and would appear that some of our peers who are teaching criminology and related disciplines at the different universities have not signed up for membership with the Society.

Consequently the knock on effect is that the students who are studying criminology at these institutions may even not be aware of the existence of Crimsa and positive role it can play. This obviously impacts on low numbers of student members.

On the contrary, we observed that academic staff members who are members of Crimsa, actively recruited more student members and that is an encouraging sign. Our current membership status stands as follows:

Active	28
Students	21
Institutional	17
Honorary	1

4. SGB Matters

The SGB (Standards Generating Body) for Criminology and Criminal Justice has made enormous progress in the registration of new qualifications in criminology with SAQA, namely:

The four year **Bachelors Criminology degree**,

The FETC (4) qualification (**Further Education and Training Certificate in Criminology**),

The National Certificate in Criminology has now been approved by the SAQA Authority and it will soon be registered on the NQF.

The Master of Victimology was also approved and then submitted to the CHE for approval and they have now recommended registration on the NQF with the request that the title be changed to Master of Criminology (with specialisation in Victimology). As you have seen, this morning's workshop bears testimony of the work that was put in by the SGB

Council wishes to acknowledge the sterling work of the entire SGB, its Executive committee, and also recognizes the dedication and commitment of Prof. Beaty Naude, for the achievements of the SGB.

5. Acta criminologica and CRIMSA News

The flagship of this Society is **Acta criminologica**, only dedicated accredited journal for criminologists that is accredited by the Department of Education. The journal has been in existence for approximately 17 years and the standard and quality of articles continue improve from year to year.

29 research articles were published in editions 17(3)(2004), 18(1)(2005) and 18(2)(2005) of Acta Criminologica since the previous AGM. Volume 18(3) is in process and will be published before the end of the year.

Council wishes to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Prof. Johan Prinsloo and his team who work tirelessly behind the scenes making sure that the various editions are compiled, edited, printed and distributed on time.

The portfolio of preparing CRIMSA News has shifted to Prof. Anthony Minnaar who has indeed taken on the responsibility with tremendous enthusiasm for which we are extremely grateful. The newsletters went out timeously with all editions of Acta.

6. CRIMSA Website

Under the supervision of Prof Anthony Minnaar this is currently being re-engineered and will be linked to sabinet banner. We are in the process of populating website with linkages to Acta, other article archives, international linkages such as the NCJRS. The website will have a fresh look and will be up and running during the next few months.

7. World Criminology Congress

It is pleasing to report that after lots persuasion and behind the scenes communication, Prof. Naude managed to get Crimsa listed as one of the 36 official societies which was recognized at the recent XIVth World Congress of Criminology. The Congress took place from 7-11 August 2005, at the Jerry Lee Centre of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania and was attended by approximately 1 500 delegates.

As the President of CRIMSA I was officially invited to participate at the opening function. Unfortunately, due to personal reasons I had to cancel my arrangements two days before I was booked to fly to Philadelphia.

Despite this setback for CRIMSA, I did receive a comprehensive report from Prof. Minnaar who observed that there were 17 South African academics listed in the conference programme to present papers. This large contingent of our fellow colleagues to the World Congress is indeed encouraging for South African criminologists.

The Executive is in possession of the comprehensive list of the World Congress Participants.

A more detailed report on the Congress will appear in the next edition of Crimsa News.

8. Financial Report

This report has been approved by EXCO and the Treasurer will be submitting report to this AGM meeting accordingly for approval bt members present.

9. Conclusion

I would like to once again thank all my fellow Exco members for their support and hard work during year in office, in particular my two vice presidents.

A special word of appreciation to the department's of Criminology at Unisa (Muckleneuk Campus) and University of Pretoria who have played host to a number of our meetings as well as the regular Crimsa seminars.

I wish to thank Prof Minnaar for agreeing to take over from me as Acting President when I was forced due to personal circumstances to resign. This will be up until the end of 2006 when Council elections are due. I wish him all the best and success in the future activities of the Society and I here I would like to publicly assure all members of my continued support of the Society's endeavours going forward.

Prof. Kris Pillay
President – CRIMSA
09/09/05